

# UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset Codebook

**Version 2010- 1 – November 2010**

The correct citation for the UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset is:

**Kreutz, Joakim, 2010. How and When Armed Conflicts End: Introducing the UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset. *Journal of Peace Research* 47(2): 243- 250.**

For questions regarding this dataset, please contact [joakim.kreutz@pcr.uu.se](mailto:joakim.kreutz@pcr.uu.se)

Uppsala Conflict Data Program  
Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

---

## Introduction

This document describes the UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset, a project within the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. This is the 2010 update of the codebook, corresponding with the conflict-level and dyad-level datasets 2010-1.

The dataset include information on the termination of armed activity as defined and identified by the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, and the UCDP Dyadic Dataset. For more information on these datasets, see <http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/datasets/>.

## Acknowledgments

This research project has received support from the Human Security Research Group, Simon Fraser University, Canada; Sida, Sweden; and DFID, United Kingdom.

Several people have contributed to identifying mistakes in earlier versions of the dataset. I am particularly grateful for comments and suggestions from (in alphabetical order): Marie Allansson, Cauli R. Bedran, Johan Brosché, Nils-Christian Bormann, Tara Cooper, Johan Dittrich Hallberg, Maria Greek, David Greene, Stina Högladh, Emma Johansson, Sara Lindberg, Mrinalini Menon, Sebastian Merz, Eric Nicholls, Desirée Nilsson, Joshua Omdorff, Vitus Ozoke, Victor Peterson, Therése Pettersson, Margareta Sollenberg, Ralph Sundberg, Susumu Suzuki, Lotta Themnér, Nina von Uexküll, Piotr Zagorowski, and Kristin Nicole Wiancki.

## About Conflict and Dyad Episodes

A Conflict Episode consists of a continuous years of armed conflict activity. The concept focuses specifically on the conflict level, i.e. fighting with regards to the listed incompatibility. It does not take into account any possible changes with regards to the identity of the belligerents, or periods of inactivity within the respective years.

A Dyad Episode consists of a continuous years of armed activity between the same parties. The concept does not take into account periods of inactivity within the respective years.

## Defining Conflict Termination

The concept of conflict termination in the dataset focuses on at least one year of non-activity, or more specifically, when the conflict ceases to be registered in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. Non-activity in this sense mean that the criteria with regards to incompatibility, level of organization, and 25 battle-related deaths are not met. Concerning the information about type of termination, the coding is based on observations about the relations between the parties in the last year of activity and the first year of non-activity that follows.

7 different types of termination are included in this dataset:

***Peace Agreement:*** Agreement, *or* the first or last in a series of agreements, concerned with resolving or regulating the incompatibility – completely or a central part of – which is signed and/or accepted by all *or* the main parties active in last year of conflict. The agreement is signed either during the last year of active conflict or the first year of inactivity.

***Ceasefire Agreement with conflict regulation:*** Agreement between all *or* the main parties' active in last year of conflict on the ending of military operations as well as some sort of mutual conflict regulatory steps. The agreement is signed and/or accepted either during the last year of active conflict or the first year of inactivity. In cases when a ceasefire agreement with conflict regulation is immediately followed by a more comprehensive agreement (peace agreement), the latter is considered the main cause of termination.

***Ceasefire Agreement:*** Agreement between all *or* the main parties' active in last year of conflict on the ending of military operations. The agreement is signed and/or accepted either during the last year of active conflict or the first year of inactivity. In cases when a ceasefire is immediately followed by a more comprehensive agreement (peace agreement, or ceasefire with conflict regulation), the latter is considered the main cause of termination.

**Victory:** One side active in the last year of conflict is either defeated or eliminated, or otherwise succumbs to the power of the other through capitulation or public announcement.

**Low Activity:** Conflict activity continues but does not reach the UCDP threshold with regards to fatalities.

**Other:** Conflict does not fulfil the UCDP criteria with regards to organization or incompatibility.

**Joining alliance** (only in the *dyad-level* dataset): The rebel side continues to fight but ceases to exist as an independent organisation. This basically denotes cases when several rebel organisations decide to form a new, joint, organisation to pursue armed opposition.

The separate elements of the definitions of **peace** and **ceasefire agreements** are operationalized as follows:

Incompatibility: the stated generally incompatible positions. The incompatibility, as stated by the parties, must concern government and/or territory.

Concerned with resolving or regulating the incompatibility: to resolve the incompatibility or explicitly suggest and create a specific process for the resolution of the incompatibility. This process must include clear visible steps and not consist of unspecific statements to “continue discussing issues in the future.”

Signed and/or accepted by: The conflict parties must be signatories to the agreement or have made public commitments to accept the terms of the agreement.

Party: a government of a state or any opposition organization or alliance of opposition organizations.

*Government:* the party controlling the capital of the state.

*Opposition organization:* any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force.

Mutual conflict regulatory steps: Practical steps with regards to the military forces of the parties intended to prevent the outbreak of renewed fighting. The steps could consist of measures such as the demobilization or withdrawal of forces, security guarantees, and/or acceptance of peace keeping forces, etc.

## Variables in the Conflict Termination Dataset

**Count:** A count of all observations in the dataset

**Count2:** A count of all observations per conflict type (extrastate, interstate, intrastate)

**ConflictID:** The unique conflict ID, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. To download a conversion table containing new and old IDs, visit <http://www.prio.no/CSCW/Datasets/Armed-Conflict/UCDP-PRIO/Old-Versions/4-2006/>

**DyadID** (only in the dyad-level dataset): The unique dyad ID, taken from the UCDP Dyadic Dataset.

**Ep:** Episode; is a count variable which records how many times a conflict has recurred after at least one year of non-activity concerning the same incompatibility since 1946. It does not take into account any possible changes with regards to the identity of the belligerents.

**Confl\_Ep** (only in the conflict-level dataset): Conflict Episode; the unique combination of Conflict ID and each conflict episode.

**Dyad\_Ep** (only in the dyad-level dataset): Dyad Episode; the unique combination of Dyad ID and each conflict episode.

**Location:** The location of the conflict, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. Location is defined as the government side of a conflict, and should not be interpreted as the geographical location of the conflict.

For internal and internationalized internal conflicts only one country name is listed. This is the country whose government or territory is disputed. For certain conflicts, such as Kurdistan, the disputed territory is divided between different countries. Following our definition, we have coded separate conflicts for each country.

For interstate conflict, both primary parties are listed in the Location field. Even if several governments are involved in the conflict, only countries that fulfill the inclusion criteria for primary actors are listed here. This normally means that two countries are listed, but there are three notable exceptions: In the Arab-Israeli war of 1948–49 as well as the Suez war of 1956 and the war in Iraq in 2003, there are more than two primary parties to the conflict.

For extrastate conflicts, Location is set to be the disputed area, not the government of the colonial power. Location is a string variable, listing the names of the countries involved. These might be fighting together or against each other. The string is split in two ways, hyphen ('-') splits the different sides in an interstate war, and comma(',') splits different countries fighting together on the same side.

**SideA:** The first primary party to the conflict, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. Side A is by definition always a primary party to the conflict. In internal conflicts, side A is always the government side, it is one of the sides in interstate conflicts and the colonial state in extrastate conflicts.

Side A is a string variable, and in the few cases where there are more than one primary party on side A, these are separated by a comma (',').

**SideB:** The second primary party to the conflict during the conflict episode, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. Like Side A, Side B is by definition a primary party to the conflict. Side B is the opposition side of all internal and extrastate conflicts and the second side in an interstate conflict. Thus, side B can include both states and non-governmental opposition groups, depending on the type of conflict. When the primary party listed on Side B is an opposition group, the column lists the group name in abbreviated form. Even if the group changes its name during the course of the conflict we record them under the same name for all years. See the UCDP Actor Dataset for the full name and name history of opposition groups.

Side B is a string variable, where the different names are separated by a comma (',').

**Incomp:** The incompatibility for the conflict, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. The stated incompatibility is what the parties claim to be fighting over. The incompatibility is coded in three categories:  
1= Territory, 2= Government, 3= Government and Territory.

**Terr:** The specified contested territory for conflicts over territory, taken from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset. In case the two sides use different names for the disputed territory, the name listed is the one used by the opposition organization.

**YEAR(final):** The final active year of the conflict episode. Conflicts that are ongoing as of 31 December 2009 are marked with an asterisk.

**Type2:** The UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset list four different types of conflict. However, since the coding of internal armed conflict and internationalized internal armed conflict can fluctuate over time within a conflict episode, these are combined into a single category in the UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset.

1= Extrastate armed conflict occurs between a state and a non-state group outside its own territory. These conflicts are by definition territorial, since the government side is fighting to retain control of a territory outside the state system.

2= Interstate armed conflict occurs between two or more states.

3= Internal armed conflict occurs between the government of a state and one or more internal opposition group(s). These may or may not involve intervention from other states.

**Years:** The years for the conflict episode. Conflicts that are ongoing as of 31 December 2009 are marked with an asterisk.

**EpStartDate:** is the date, as precise as possible, when the conflict for the first time after at least a year of non-activity reached the level of 25 battle-related deaths in a year. For the first conflict episode, this corresponds to *Start date 2* in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Data Set.

**EpStartPrec:** The Startdate is coded as precisely as possible. For certain conflicts we can pinpoint the start of the armed conflict down to a single event, taking place on a specific day. For other conflicts, this is not possible, due to lack of precise information. The Startprec (start precision) is coded to highlight the level of certainty for the date set in the Startdate variable.

1= Day, month and year are precisely coded; we have good information on the event.

2= Day is assigned; month and year are precisely coded. The assigned date can either be one of several events that can be classified as the first; it can be the last day in a period when several fatalities have been reported jointly or it can be an event that different sources claim occurred on different dates.

3= Day is unknown; month and year are precisely coded. The day is known to be in a given month, but we are missing information on an exact date. Day is then set to the first day of the month.

4= Month is assigned; year is coded precisely. Day is set as the first day of the assigned month.

5= Day and month are unknown, year is coded precisely. Day and month are set as the 1 January of the coded year.

6= Year is assigned. There is a wide disagreement between different sources, so that not even year can be coded precisely. The start year is assigned based on subjective judgment.

7= Year is missing. No information on the start date is available; Startdate is set to 1 January of the first year recorded in the conflict.

**EpEnd:** is a dummy variable that codes whether the conflict is inactive the following year and an episode of the conflict thus ends. If the conflict is inactive the following year(s), this variable is coded as 1. If not, a 0 is coded.

**EpEndDate:** is the date, as precise as possible, when the conflict violence stopped. If detailed information is lacking the Conflict Termination Dataset sets the date to 31 December.

**EpEndPrec:** The enddate is coded as precisely as possible. For certain conflicts we can pinpoint the termination of the armed conflict down to a

single event, taking place on a specific day. For other conflicts, this is not possible, due to lack of precise information. The Endprec (end precision) is coded to highlight the level of certainty for the date set in the Enddate variable.

1= Day, month and year are precisely coded; we have good information on the event.

2= Day is assigned; month and year are precisely coded. The assigned date can either be one of several events that can be classified as the last; it can be the last day in a period when several fatalities have been reported jointly or it can be an event that different sources claim occurred on different dates.

3= Day is unknown; month and year are precisely coded. The day is known to be in a given month, but we are missing information on an exact date. Day is then set to the last day of the month.

4= Month is assigned; year is coded precisely. Day is set as the last day of the assigned month.

5= Day and month are unknown, year is coded precisely. Day and month are set as the 31 December of the coded year.

6= Year is assigned. There is a wide disagreement between different sources, so that not even year can be coded precisely. The end year is assigned based on subjective judgment.

7= Year is missing. No information on the end date is available; Enddate is set to 31 December of the last year recorded in the conflict.

**Outcome:** The means of termination of the conflict episode. For definition of the different outcomes, see above. The dataset include 7 different types of termination.

1= Peace agreement

2= Ceasefire agreement with conflict regulation

3= Ceasefire agreement

4= Victory

5= Low activity

6= Other

7= Joining alliance (only in the dyad-level dataset)

**VicSide:** Information about which side in the conflict has been victorious. The variable is coded for the observed terminations of type 4.

1= Victory for Side A (the government in internal conflicts).

2= Victory for Side B (the rebels in internal conflicts).

**PeaceA** (only in the dyad-level dataset): a dummy variable whether the two parties signed a peace agreement at or after the end of fighting, but before a potential new episode of warfare.

**PeaceAdate** (only in the dyad-level dataset): is the date, as precise as possible, when a peace agreement is signed or, if the agreement is unwritten, when

publicly announced by the parties. In so-called peace process agreements, the date observed is, if possible, (a) the date of the concluding (last) agreement or (b) the date of the (first) agreement that establishes the process.

**Region:** The geographic region of the conflict, taken from the UCDP/Prio Armed Conflict Dataset. This variable groups the various conflicts into five geographical categories, dependent on the location of the conflict.

1= Europe

2= Middle East

3= Asia

4= Africa

5= Americas

**Version:** Version of the dataset

## Missing Data Problems

The dataset does not include any missing data codes. This should not lead anyone to assume that there are no such problems. A number of conflicts have been recorded as possible in accordance with the criteria for inclusion. Similarly, additional years might have been listed for those conflicts that are included, although so far UCDP have failed to find sufficient evidence for inclusion. These observations are currently coded as absence of conflict.

The data coders have made a decision whether there was an active conflict according to the definition for all countries for all years they are independent after 1945. This does not mean there are no uncertainties regarding the coding. A list of unclear dyad-years and conflict-years is available at